

Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,

Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have anything you would like me to share, please forward it. Thank you.

Lisa Terry

Seeking Vendors for:

Howard County Veterans Resource Fair

Tues, April 4th from 5-8pm

50+ Center 9401 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City (next to Miller Branch Library)

Seeking vendors who offer services, programs and/or incentives to veterans and military families.

Library of Congress [Veteran History Project](#) will be conducting interviews at the event. If you are interested in volunteering to conduct interviews, contact the [Volunteer Center Serving Howard County](#). If you are a veteran that would like to share your story, contact Andre Huber to schedule a time. (202) 707-1819 Ahub@loc.gov

To participate, email lbterry@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-0821

[GovConnects BizBreakfast with Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford](#)

“Modernization of Procurement”

February 7, 8-10am

Homewood Suites, Laurel

[GovConnects Executive Level Networking](#)

Applied Defense Solutions, Columbia

February 8, 2017, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Howard County Health Department

[Community Blood Drive](#)

Wednesday February 8, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bloodmobile

Use Rapid Pass to fast track your donation, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to learn more.

(Available on the day of the blood drive)

Questions on Eligibility Please contact Donor Services 1-866-236-3276

Alternatively you can contact 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

[Recruit Military DAV Baltimore Veterans Job Fair](#)

February 9, 11am-3pm

M&T Bank Stadium
1101 Russell Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

100+ Job Opportunities (Managerial, Supervisory, Etc.)
75 Companies Attending (Fortune 500, Government, Etc.)

Can't Attend? See online opportunities: https://board.recruitmilitary.com/sign_up

230,000 Jobs Posted Online
3,058,538 Employers Viewed Military Profiles

Why RecruitMilitary?

85,000+ Jobs Offers Extended
800+ Events
17+ Years working with Vets and their Families

[MOAA CEB](#)

Thursday, February 9th, 9 AM – 5 PM

Waterview Conference Center
1919 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209
Transitioning Officers
Must register above - Fee

[2017 State of the County Address featuring County Executive Allan Kittleman](#)

Turf Valley, Ellicott City
February 16, 2017, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

[Small Business Seminar Active](#)

[Assailant Training](#)

The Meeting House, Columbia
February 22, 2017, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

This seminar, presented by the National Center for Citizen Safety, will provide resources to protect your business. Attendees will learn how to shelter-in-place and lockdown in the event of an incident and will hear critical response techniques straight from the experts.

Women In Government Contracting Leadership Forum

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Columbia
March 8, 2017

[Click here to register](#)

[Tech Expo BWI Marriott](#)

Thursday, February 16th, 10 AM – 3 PM

1743 West Nursery Road
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
Security Clearance Required

[US Chamber Foundation](#)

Friday, February 24th, 8am-4pm

Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009
8 AM – Noon – Financial Workshop; - 9 – 10:30 AM – Resume Workshop
11:30 – 1 PM Business Networking Lunch - 1 – 4 PM – Networking and Job Fair
Register above to participate

[Veterans Hiring Event](#)

Wednesday, March 1st, 10am-2pm

Calvin & T Tyler Ballroom
Student Ctr, Morgan State University
2201 Argonne Dr, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21251
Veterans 10 to 11 AM 11 – 2 PM Open to all

[ClearedJobs](#)

Thursday, March 2nd, 3-7pm

DoubleTree BWI
890 Elkridge landing Road
Linthicum Heights.MD
CI or FS Poly only Register and upload your resume

RecruitMilitary Nationals Park

Thursday, March 2nd , 11 AM – 3 PM

1500 So Capitol Street, SE

Washington, DC 20003

General/Professional

The [Armed Services Arts Partnership \(ASAP\)](#) team is gearing up for an exciting spring, and we are grateful for your continued involvement in our community. Please see below for details and sign up information on our **(1) Comedy Bootcamp @ DC Improv, (2) Improv Class w/ Unified Scene Theater, (3) Storytelling Course w/ Story District, (4) Intro to Solo Performance w/ Woolly Mammoth, and (5) Veterans Open Mic @ Dog Tag Bakery**. If you know any veterans, service members, military families, or caregivers who might be interested in these opportunities, please spread the word!

(1) Comedy Bootcamp @ The DC Improv

- **Overview:** [Comedy Bootcamp](#) is the first free stand-up comedy class for veterans and military families in the country. The seven-week course develops the comedy writing and performing skills of participants through hands-on instruction and group feedback. The class culminates with a graduation show at a local comedy club, with each participant delivering a five minute set to a public audience. Comedy Bootcamp is led by professional comedians and alumni of the program.
- **Where:** The DC Improv, Washington, D.C.
- **When:** Sundays, March 19th through April 30th, 6PM - 9PM | Graduation show evening of May 3rd.
- **To Apply:** Please submit your online application by visiting asapasap.org/comedy-application. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

(2) Improv Class w/ Unified Scene Theater

- **Overview:** ASAP's Veterans Improv Class is one of the only free improvisational comedy classes for veterans and military families in the country. The eight-week, intro-level course develops students improv skills through a variety of games and exercises. The class culminates with a improv graduation show for friends and family. This fantastic class is led by professional improviser and Air Force Veteran, Shawn Westfall.
- **Where:** The Unified Scene Theater, 80 T St NW, Washington, D.C.
- **When:** Saturdays, March 11th through April 29th, 2PM to 4PM.
- **To Apply:** Please submit your online application by visiting asapasap.org/improv-application. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

(3) Storytelling Course w/ Story District

- **Overview:** The Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) is thrilled to partner with Story District to offer a free storytelling class for veterans, service members, military families, and caregivers. Turn good stories into great performances in this five-week Storytelling 101 course. Called the "gold standard in storytelling" by the Washington Post, Story District's master teachers will walk you through the steps of mining your memories to identify good story material; developing a narrative structure; and connecting with an audience. The course will culminate with a graduation performance for friends and family.

- **Where:** Story District, 3329 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20010.

- **When:** Saturdays, April 29th through May 20th, 1PM - 4PM | Graduation show scheduled for the evening of May 24th.

- **To Apply:** Please submit your online application by visiting <http://www.asapasap.org/storytelling-application>. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

(4) Intro to Solo Performance w/ Nilaja Sun, Woolly Mammoth Theater

- **Overview:** Join Obie award winning playwright, actor, and teaching artist [Nilaja Sun](#) for an Intro to Solo Performance workshop, in advance of her upcoming solo show PIKE ST. at [Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company](#). Participants will engage in writing exercises designed to (a) teach a variety of play-writing techniques, and (b) encourage them to

find their artistic voice. This workshop will also include a variety of physical and vocal warm-ups in service of crafting and differentiating multiple characters.

- **Where & When:** Saturday, March 4th, 10AM to 1PM at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, 641 D St NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

- **Who:** Free for veterans, service members, military family members, and caregivers.

- **To Apply:** Please submit your online application by visiting <http://www.asapasap.org/solo-performance>. If you have any questions, please contact sam@asapasap.org.

(5) Veterans Open Mic @ Dog Tag Bakery

- **Overview:** The [Armed Services Arts Partnership](#) (ASAP) and [Dog Tag Bakery](#) are excited to continue with our monthly open mic for veterans, service members, and military family members. This month's open mic will be open to musicians and comedians. It will provide a platform for veteran artists to showcase their talents, express themselves, and have their voices heard in front of members of the local community. This is an opportunity for the civilian and military world to connect through the arts, dispel stereotypes and misnomers, and engage in an honest dialogue about the veteran, military, and human experience -- all while enjoying delicious baked goodies and coffee.

- **Where & When:** The open mic is set for Thursday, February 16th at Dog Tag Bakery (3206 Grace Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.). Doors will open at 6:30PM and the event will begin at 7PM.
- **Tickets:** General admission tickets are \$10 online. All proceeds from ticket sales will directly support the programming of ASAP and Dog Tag, respectively. Please reserve your tickets [by following this link](#).

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration – March 30th

Dear Vietnam Veteran, family members, and friends,

I am delighted to invite you to the [Third Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration](#) at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt hosted by the We Honor Veterans Committee of Hospice of the Chesapeake on March 30, 2017. Attached is the Invitation and Information Sheet regarding the celebration.

For this special event, we are providing each Vietnam Veteran and 1 guest a ticket at no charge. Additionally, in remembrance of a Vietnam Veteran who has died, we are offering a family member and 1 guest, 2 tickets at no charge. All other guests are charged \$30.00 per a ticket. [Information sheet](#)

To get your ticket, please click on the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-home-vietnam-veterans-day-celebration-tickets-30663895537>

As a Commemorative Partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Program, Hospice of the Chesapeake is honored to - in the words of the program - "assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families." Vietnam Veteran **Major General James T. Jackson, USA (Ret)**, Director of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration will join us as a representative of the Commemoration Program and share further information about the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration pin that will be given to each Vietnam Veteran as they arrive.

Here are some other program highlights:

- **General Walter E. Boomer, USMC (Ret)**, Vietnam Veteran, four star general and Assistant Commander of the US Marine Corps, will be giving reflections on Vietnam.
- **Sergeant Major Rodwell L. Forbes, USA** former Garrison Command Sergeant Major of Fort George G. Meade will be speak on behalf of a grateful military.

- **Coach John W. Harbaugh**, Head Coach of the Baltimore Ravens, Winner of The National Football League's Salute to Service Award in 2013 and finalist in 2014, will speak on behalf of a grateful community.
 - Members of **VVA 451** will be presenting the colors (Color Guard for the Ravens).
 - **Command Sergeant Major Brian S. Cullen** Fort George G. Meade will be leading the salute to Vietnam Veterans and the memory of those Vietnam Veterans who have passed.
 - Over 100 active duty military to be involved in the salute to our Veterans and in remembrance of those Veterans who are no longer with us.
 - Music performed by **Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Gospel Choir**.
- We look forward to celebrating the third annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day and providing a long overdue and well deserved recognition and a joyous Welcome Home to our Vietnam Veterans!

With joy and gratitude,
The We Honor Veterans Committee

Diane Sancilio LCSW-C
Director of Volunteer Services
Chair, We Honor Veterans Committee
Hospice of the Chesapeake
John & Cathy Belcher Campus
90 Ritchie Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122
[443-837-1549](tel:443-837-1549)

CONSUMER AGENCY'S MILITARY UNIT DELIVERS

Petraeus Racks Up Victories for Servicemembers, Veterans, and Military Families

Washington, D.C. – This month, Holly Petraeus concluded her appointment as the founding leader of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs. The consumer agency's military protection unit has worked to secure \$120 million in refunds for military families with mortgages, credit cards, student loans, and other financial products. The agency has also handled more than 70,000 complaints from military families and visited 145 military installations and units.

CFPB Director Richard Cordray tasked Petraeus, a nationally-recognized expert on financial issues faced by military families, with launching an office charged with coordinating consumer protection efforts across the government, monitoring complaints, and launching financial education initiatives. A longtime military family advocate, Petraeus is also the daughter, sister, wife, and mother to members of the military.

"For every American who is active-duty, a veteran, Guard, or Reserve, Holly Petraeus always had your back," said Rohit Chopra, a CFA Senior Fellow who served alongside Petraeus as an Assistant Director of the CFPB. "Petraeus leaves a legacy that will ensure the consumer agency will maintain its sharp focus on safeguarding the financial lives of military families for years to come."

Each year, thousands of servicemembers must end their military service because [they experience financial distress that leads to the revocation of their security clearances](#), leading to significant taxpayer costs. In 2006, the Department of Defense submitted a [report to Congress that raised concerns about the impact of predatory lending on servicemembers and their families](#). The Pentagon report noted that “predatory lending undermines military readiness, harms the morale of troops and their families, and adds to the cost of fielding an all volunteer fighting force.” The establishment of the CFPB’s Office of Servicemember Affairs has been a potent weapon to address these readiness, morale, and fiscal concerns.

Under Cordray and Petraeus, the agency’s military protection unit has garnered scores of victories that have helped:

- **Men and Women in Uniform Ordered to Move:** In light of the [illegal foreclosures initiated by mortgage services against military families](#), Petraeus worked overtime for military homeowners. Each year, approximately one-third of active-duty servicemembers receive Permanent Change of Station orders. For families who own homes and are “underwater,” this can pose severe hardship. The consumer agency worked to institute [new guidelines](#) to allow families to sell their homes in a short sale, even if they owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth.
- **Servicemembers Burdened with Student Debt:** Petraeus and Chopra co-authored a ground-breaking [report](#) that uncovered systematic mistreatment of active-duty servicemembers student loan borrowers. The Attorney General of the United States credited Petraeus when announcing a [\\$60 million settlement with Sallie Mae and Navient for its years-long scam to overcharge military families on student loans](#) that the Justice Department described as “intentional, willful, and taken in disregard for the rights of servicemembers.” 78,000 servicemembers received [refunds](#) as part of this action.
- **Military Families Targeted by Unscrupulous Lenders:** Petraeus was a vocal advocate for closing loopholes in the Military Lending Act that allowed financial predators to skirt the law. Cordray and Petraeus worked with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Pentagon officials on [new guidelines to close these loopholes](#). CFA has [published research](#) and advocated for stronger protections under the Military Lending Act.

The consumer agency and its military unit also launched financial education programs to assist servicemembers and veterans, led efforts to [fine and order US Bank to refund the 50,000 servicemembers](#) for its deceptive auto loan scheme, and spoke out against [aggressive practices by for-profit colleges](#).

"Petraeus and her team listened and learned from thousands of men and women in uniform – in person and online – arming them with information to protect their financial futures," said Michael Best, Senior Policy Advocate at CFA.

Petraeus is succeeded by Paul Kantwill. Kantwill was previously the Department of Defense’s legal policy expert on the financial industry and the effects financial products and services had on military members and their families. Kantwill led an interagency team to close loopholes in the Military Lending Act’s rules. Kantwill had a 25-year military career as an active duty officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps, and served in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf.

For more information about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs, visit <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers/>.

The Consumer Federation of America is an association of more than 250 non-profit consumer groups that, since 1968, has sought to advance the consumer interest through research, education, and advocacy.

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

This military family bought a new, unsafe lemon 2014 RAV4 from Toyota, then were denied protection because they had shipped the car to their duty station overseas. They won in arbitration, then were sued by Toyota, which appealed the decision in court.

The couple are now the happy owners of a new 2017 Toyota RAV4 replacement vehicle. Toyota has dropped its suit against them, and also paid some fees.

Here's the latest post, on Change.org, where their cause received support from over 115,000 people who signed their petition -- many also posting comments such as "Toyota should be banned from selling on military bases" --

<https://www.change.org/p/toyota-protect-those-protecting-us-stop-toyota-from-cheating-us-military-serving-overseas/u/19158896>

More good news -- by dropping its appeal of the pro-consumer decision in arbitration, Toyota was giving up on the possibility of winning a favorable appellate court decision they could have used against other military families serving overseas, to avoid having to honor the warranties.

CARS found out about their case, and worked with them and their attorney to get the word out as widely as possible.

Here's to having consumers' voices heard, loud and clear.

Rosemary

Rosemary Shahan
President
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
1107 9th Street, Suite 625
Sacramento, CA 95814
tel. 530-759-9440
<http://www.carconsumers.org>

[LinkedIn offers a 1-yr free Premium membership for veterans](#)

[VFW Action Corps Weekly](#)

[VFW Action Corps Weekly](#) – Feb 6

[MDVA Weekly](#) Jobs, Employment/Training Opportunities, Small Business Support and more

[NAMI News, Feb 2017](#)

[Howard County Veteran Owned Business Directory](#)
[Facebook](#)

[Reserve Voice Newsletter Feb 2017](#)

[Coast Guard Yard background](#)

[Coast Guard Yard Fact Sheet](#)

[Assistance for Senior War Time Veterans](#)

[Senior Veterans Council](#) - is a nationally recognized VA accredited claims agency here to help Veterans and their Surviving Spouses become eligible to receive the VA's Aid and Attendance Benefit along with many other benefits to help with long-term care and senior living solutions.

[RiverWatch Apartments](#) – new apartment townhouses built with accessibility in mind, 2 elevators
apartments left, Elkridge, MD

[Quit Smoking](#)

[Community Wellness Events](#) – free or cheap classes and events to improve your health and fitness

Through My Soul: THE EAST AFRICAN EXPEDITION – A 22-year military veteran, service disabled company owner, Paradigm 3i Solutions in Maryland, returns to many areas of Africa where he served. He is creating a color coffee table book dedicated to veterans. Check out his [kickstarter page](#) and his journey.

MakingChange Offers Tax Service

MakingChange, a Howard County non-profit organization that develops and delivers financial education programs, is hosting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at The Multiservice Center in North Laurel now through April 15.

The Howard County site, like other VITA sites across the country, offers free tax return preparation and filing to most taxpayers who earned less than \$54,000 in 2016. Information: www.makingchangecenter.org

History Day Judges

Judge middle and high school student work based on National History Day Commission criteria.

Saturday, March 18 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Reservoir High School

For registration information contact Kelly Reichardt Kelly_Reichardt@hcpss.org

Historic Oakland in downtown Columbia is offering active Military a 10% discount off their room rentals. Elegant Oakland is the perfect setting for ceremonies, wedding receptions, bridal showers, holiday parties, family celebrations, business meetings or retreats. Six rooms plus an outdoor tent holding up to 180 guest are available. Visit www.Historic-Oakland.com or call 410 730-4801.

If you would like to be added to our [directory of veteran and military discounts](#), please email lbterry@howardcountymd.gov

[Reserved Veteran Parking](#) – Join Howard County General Hospital, The Mall in Columbia, Turf Valley Resort, Leidos, Aida Bistro, Stella Nolte and ElkrIDGE Furnace Inn, who have already installed signs, to honor our veterans working and living in Howard County. If you would like to order one for your business or property, please use the order form on the link attached.

A local student is supporting the initiative as part of his Eagle Scout project. He has raised funds for a limited number of signs so if you are interested in installing a free sign, please contact veterans@howardcountymd.gov. for more information.

DOD Increases Discharge and Records Review Outreach: The Department of Defense is renewing its efforts to make more veterans aware of military discharge and records review opportunities. In a press release, DOD said it is reviewing and consolidating all related policies to reinforce its commitment to ensuring fair and equitable review of separations for all veterans. Whether the discharge or other correction is the result of PTSD, sexual orientation, sexual assault, or some other consideration, the department is committed to rectifying errors or injustices and treating all veterans with dignity and respect. Veterans who desire a correction to their service record or who believe their discharge was unjust, erroneous, or warrants an upgrade, are encouraged to apply for the review. [Learn more about the DOD's outreach efforts.](#)
